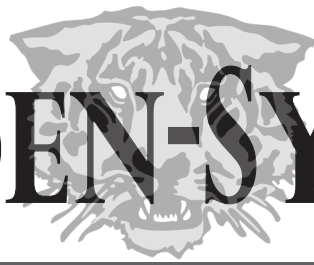


THE HAMPDEN-SYDNEY TIGER



March 12, 2018

The Halfway Issue

Volume XCVIII.8

The Hill Mourns

Chad Pisano '19
Editor-in-Chief

To say that Ray Bottom was an extraordinary man would be a massive understatement. Raised in Hampton, Virginia, by his father Raymond B. Bottom Sr. and his mother Dorothy Rose Bottom, Raymond B. Bottom Jr. had the values of hard work and generosity instilled in him as a young man. He spent his high school summers working with the Southern Color Print Association, which was a subsidiary of the newspaper that his parents owned, and devoted his Thanksgivings handing out turkeys in downtown Newport News with his grandfather. After graduating from Hampton High, Mr. Bottom enrolled in Hampden-Sydney College, where he found a home among the men of Hampden-Sydney and particularly within the Kappa Alpha Order, both of whom he would show great loyalty to throughout the rest of his life. While at Hampden-Sydney, he was an active member of the college newspaper *The Tiger* as its circulation manager, the Secretary and Censor KA, a member of the Radio Club, the German Club, and the Barbell Club, to name a few of his commitments during his time here on the Hill.



(Photo: the Kaleidoscope)

Edwin Saunders '19, the President of KA, said that "Mr. Bottom was a humble man who truly loved everything about Hampden Sydney College. There are no words to express how dearly he will be missed by both our College and fraternity. He laid the foundation for the success of this fraternity, and his legacy will not soon be forgotten." His impact and dedication to his fraternity was so great that "To honor his legacy, the chapter has voted to rename the chapter room, "Ray's Room." [KA] will host a dedication of his room and celebration of his extraordinary life on Saturday, March 24th"

He graduated from H-SC with a B.S. of Physics in 1951 and the University of Virginia with a B.S.

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Kenneth N. Townsend
Accompanist to Victor N. Cabas Jr.

Dr. Victor Cabas joined the faculty of Hampden-Sydney College in 1982, two years after I did. We shared common interests in the Southern School of American Literature and in American music—particularly the blues. Vic Cabas was a master of both Delta Blues (especially the work of Robert Johnson) and Country/Piedmont Blues.

In 1995, Vic was awarded a major teaching award (he received quite a few over the years—five J. B. Fuqua Teaching Awards, as I recall—and the two of us hit the road to look for just the perfect blues guitar for him to convert the prize money into. We found a late-20s National steel-bodied guitar that was to become the main slide-guitar for Vic for many years. However, this also became Vic Cabas' introduction into the world of vintage guitar collecting. Over the years, he bought and sold many fine and interesting vintage guitars, basses, banjos, mandolins, and other string instruments after that first National guitar.

Dr. Cabas and I played on and off campus, in the Farmville-Charlottesville-Richmond area over a period of many years. We each played either acoustic or electric guitars, and Vic-



(Photo: hsc.edu)

tor would sing. We played Delta and Piedmont blues, but also works from the Great American Songbook—e.g., "Stardust," by Hoagy Carmichael. Dr. Cabas was an exceptionally gifted guitarist/singer. His bottleneck slide solo work was constantly innovative and never repetitive. He taught the Delta and Piedmont blues as literature at both Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Virginia.

A young Dave Matthews sought out Dr. Cabas for guitar-playing tips. They became friends. Dave Matthews made cassette tapes of his emerging songwriting efforts that he would sing and play on guitar in his home, which he would give to Dr. Cabas for critiques. Dr. Cabas, in turn, would give these tapes to me, as the material was more in line with the sort of music that I played. (I still have some of them—the ones that I didn't give to students.)

Eric Clapton once called Dr. Cabas

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New Student Body President Elected

Chad Pisano '19
Editor-in-Chief

While *The Tiger* would love to sit down with our newly elected student body leaders and discuss their plans for the future, the timing of this issue and spring break made such a series of interviews impossible. Students can rest assured that more direct and personal interviews will be forthcoming. Fortunately, I was able to attend the Executive Debate that occurred recently and record some of the then-candidates' answers to some questions that were asked over the course of those discussions. By drawing on these responses, my goal is to offer some sort of profile for each of the incoming student body executive officers, and help the general student body understand what to expect from each of the new student government representatives. Keep in mind that these are only part of the answers that each of the students gave to each question, and that more complete and thorough interviews

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INFO



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

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by J. B. Wall '19

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We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger is a student newspaper serving the community of Hampden-Sydney and operating independently of the College. *The Tiger* is printed, roughly, biweekly by *The Farmville Herald*.

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in Finance in 1958. Enlisting in the Air Force as a First Lieutenant after graduating from Hampden-Sydney, he would go on to have a decorated twenty-five plus year career in the Air Force's active duty and reserves, before retiring as a Colonel. After leaving active duty service, Mr. Bottom put his expertise in electronics that he learned in the Air Force to good use, working with the WGH AM/FM radio station, getting cable TV franchises in Newport News and Danville, VA. Taking over from his mother, he became the Chairman of the Board of the Daily Press Inc., as well as becoming its editor-in-chief. He made a name for himself in this niche by increasing its circulation and modernizing its editorial section. After having to sell his beloved newspaper, Mr. Bottom formed Centennial Communications and purchased the television station WYAH, which became a member of the United Paramount Network before being renamed

WGNT and being sold to Viacom.

Raymond Bottom made his reputation by being a man of quality, of action, and of character. However, what may have been his best quality was his immense charity. He was an active recruiter for the college in the peninsula area of Virginia, regularly responsible for recruiting dozens, if not hundreds, of students who often affectionately call him "Uncle Ray." Maybe more than anyone else, Mr. Bottom understood and treasured those small intangibles that make Hampden-Sydney College such a wonderful place. Aside from recruiting many current and former students, Mr. Bottom was the single most generous donor in our college's history. He placed a special emphasis on his donations being used for scholarships, particularly for Virginians who lacked the means to attend college.

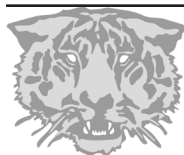
Professor David Marion, a respected pillar of Mr. Bottom's beloved Wilson Center, mourned his

passing, calling "Mr. Raymond Bottom a loyal and generous alumnus who cared deeply about Hampden-Sydney and the Center for Leadership that bears General Wilson's name. It is not an exaggeration to say that no one told the 'Hampden-Sydney story' more effectively or more often, and to more prospective and current students, than Ray Bottom. His generous commitment of time and money to Hampden-Sydney, and to organizations such as the USO, frequently went unreported, but the beneficial effects of this commitment are all around us. The Hampden-Sydney family will miss him greatly. The faculty and staff of the Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest join the Hampden-Sydney community in extending condolences to Ray Bottom's family and friends. They may be assured that his legacy will be carefully preserved in the lives of the many persons, including Hampden-Sydney students, who benefited from the hand and the good counsel extended to them by an authentic Virginia gentleman."

College President Larry Stimpert stated that "Ray Bottom believed strongly in our mission to form good men and good citizens, and for his entire life he remained a steadfast and enthusiastic supporter of his beloved alma mater, the Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest, and the Kappa Alpha Order. We will miss Ray's counsel and friendship, and we are ever grateful for all that he did for the men of Hampden-Sydney."

Truly, Mr. Bottom's legacy is one that will humble, inspire, and guide H-SC men both today and far into the future. His generosity is something we should all seek to emulate, and the campus institutions that are indebted to him range from this very publication to fraternity houses. We at *The Tiger* and students all across campus extend our sincerest condolences to his family.





EDITORIALS

Would-Be RAs Punished by Housing Calendar

Shelby Hanna '20
Opinion Editor

In mid-February, Hampden-Sydney Residence Life finalized the decisions for Resident Advisor positions for the upcoming 2018-2019 Academic Year. From my point of view, knowing several students who were hopeful and strong contenders to earn a position, I can only imagine there were far more strong contenders than spots available. This likely put Residence Life in a bit of a tough position when making decisions, but there is one thing Residence Life could have done that wouldn't

“the letters extending job offers to new residents advisors were not sent out until after the deadline for these applications had passed...”

have been difficult: adjust housing application deadlines accordingly.

Applications to live in the Alphabets were due on February 14th, for which many rising sophomores and juniors apply. Usually, students who do not get accepted for housing in the Alphabets are placed in Venable Hall, which has a notorious reputation among students. Students who not apply for special housing, such as the apartment-style Alphabets, also tend to be placed in Venable Hall.

However, the letters extending job offers to new resident advisors were

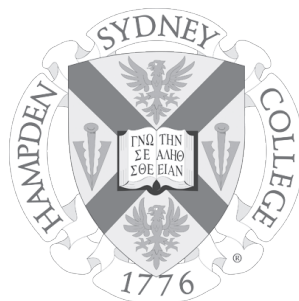
not sent out until after the deadline for these applications had passed, leaving the candidates who were turned down by Residence Life unable to apply for housing in the Alphabets. While I have reached out to multiple students, although none would go on record out of fear that it would harm their future efforts to earn a job as Resident Advisor. Each of these students made Dean's List and are involved in extracurricular activities, which ostensibly meets the outlined requirement for RAs of “proven academic performance and successful participation in extra-curricular activities” (per the RA Job Description webpage) and would have made their applications for housing in the Alphabets competitive with

other students. However, they did not want to apply for both an RA position and Alphabets housing out of concern that the applications would undermine each other. Due to the timetable that Residence Life operated under, students were punished for seeking to become Resident Advisors. Good students. This must invariably lead the Tiger to wonder: why would Residence Life operate on this timetable? Why would Residence Life punish would-be Resident Advisors?

Huc Venite Iuvenes ut Exeatis Viri

Neil Smith '20
Guest Contributor

Come here as boys so that you may leave as men. That's our motto, and it's one that bears deep analysis, because it's about more than just maturity. You arrived here as a boy, but what drew you here? More likely than not, it was the sports, or the parties, or the beautiful architecture, or any number of surface-level attributes. But what you should realize once you're here is that those aspects of the school are secondary to its mission. You can choose to merely exchange your time here for a diploma and a resume – but that alone is not enough for the mission of this college to succeed. Everything you do here must be in service of your journey into manhood. What does it mean to be a man? It means that you have the ability to call forth order from the chaos of existence. To bring meaning and truth into the world through speech and action: through study of rhetoric and the distilled knowledge of humanity through the liberal arts; through following the honor code; and through the preservation of a justly run, independent student government. You, brother, are a well of limitless potential, and Hampden-Sydney is a perfect place to realize this fact.



Club Highlight: The CYC

Bjore Samard '20
Guest Contributor

The mission of Hampden-Sydney College is to form good men and good citizens; however, this formation process varies from person to person. I recognized this strife very early on, and I have kept in mind ever since.

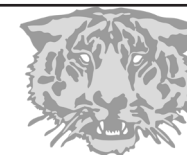
Towards the end of last semester, I saw my opportunity to cater this school's mission to a wide variety of students through establishing a chapter of the organization entitled the Campus YMCA Congress, or CYC for short. Through the two main channels of CYC, students are exposed to a multitude of different ideas, beliefs, and backgrounds. The first of these channels is a four-day conference in Washington D.C. where students participate in a mock federal government simulation. Students can choose to partake in many different roles including debating in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, running for or serving as an executive officer (President, Vice-President, etc.), and investigating and reporting the news of the conference. It is through this conference that we are able to meet people from all around the nation while simultaneously learning how our government works through hands-on experiences. The second channel that our chapter operates under is through service. We are starting to look into various community service projects around Farmville that we can partake in such as Habitat for Humanity to help build houses for those in need as well as helping with our school's Recycling Club to help clean up the town. It is the firm belief

held by myself and the club as a whole that to “form good men and good citizens” one must know how our government works and must give back to the community. These two essential components are met with CYC.

I am proud to say that for a new club we have already made progress towards our goal as our club attended this year's CYC conference from February 1st-4th and had a fantastic experience. Our school sent nine delegates, all of whom were freshmen and sophomores, to test both our knowledge and skills ranging in a wide variety of areas such as foreign policy, criminal justice, and journalism.

Other schools were soon impressed with our school's ability to dominate whatever field our men were in. For instance, Shelby Hanna '20 was the only member at the conference to win the “Outstanding Statesman” award for the Senate, I was the only member of the conference to win the “Outstanding Statesman” award for the House of Representatives, and Chris Thompson '21 was one of two (due to a tie) to win the “Outstanding Journalist” award. To put these achievements in simple terms, a Hampden-Sydney student took first place in every event we entered in. This was a tremendous accomplishment and I could not be prouder of our delegation.

As the conference concluded we could not stop talking about all of the memories that were made and the experiences that we had been a part of. All of us here in CYC are thoroughly looking forward to the growth and the future of our club. It is through this future that I fully believe that we can help some people find their own path to becoming a good man and a good citizen.



H-SC Ethics Bowl Team Breaks Record

*Ben Mogren '20
Guest Contributor*

Honor. Brotherhood. Integrity. According to Dr. Wilson, the Ethics Bowl team coach for the last five years, these are the values that have made Hampden-Sydney's team so special. And H-SC's team is indeed special, as it's the first team to have won the championship three years in a row in the VFIC Ethics Bowl competition's nineteen years running. Champions in five out of the last seven years, the H-SC team is on a "hot streak," according to Dr. Wilson. After such a lasting run of consistent success, it is difficult for one to imagine such a hot streak ending anytime soon.

When Dr. Wilson was asked what it was that helped Hampden-Sydney's men to continuously rise above the competition, the pensive coach would often mention many of the themes that have helped make Hampden-Sydney such an attractive college to many young men. Honor, something that is prized almost above all else at H-SC, is a key component to Dr. Wilson's team's ability to formulate ethical arguments. Not only are his team members looking for logically compelling arguments during a match, says Dr. Wilson, they are also truly grappling with the ethical issue at hand.

However, Dr. Wilson says the biggest factor in his team's ability to consistently dominate their competitors boils down to what our grizzly baseball coach might have told us back in grade school: practice makes perfect. When asked how well prepared his guys are compared to other Ethics Bowl teams, Dr. Wilson quickly answered that his guys practice about twice as much as their op-

ponents. To put things into perspective, Dr. Wilson willingly revealed that the H-SC ethics bowl member typically practices for about two years for just a week's worth of action.

With teammates spending such a large amount of time together, Dr. Wilson also pointed out another key to his team's penchant for victories: comradery. The coach described H-SC's Ethics Bowl team as a "close knit group of guys" who consistently

more than well prepared for their tasks.

Dr. Wilson concluded his interview with a reminder of how momentous the achievements of the H-SC Ethics Bowl team have been over these last few years, by reminding us how difficult it is to win three straight championships. Though the team is done for the remainder of the semester, they will soon return to prepare for another convincing championship run this September. For those who wish to



(Photo: hsc.edu)

push themselves to be better. Though competitive, the group members recognize the value of teamwork, and always seem to have one another's back come competition day.

The last factor that Dr. Wilson deemed key to his team's dominance was their ability to think on their feet. Dr. Wilson said this could be seen as a byproduct of both rigorous practice and academic excellence at Hampden-Sydney, as well as a careful partnership between the Ethics Bowl team and the Speaking Center. While other teams might struggle with being able to give an apt response when questioned, or even to speak clearly when called upon, Hampden-Sydney's men have proven to be polished orators, who are just as comfortable delivering an answer as they are forming it. In many ways, H-SC's men seem to have been

try and join a historically great Ethics Bowl team, there will be multiple slots open as Fall 2018 rolls around.

New President Continued

will hopefully follow in the future.

Michael Good was elected to be our next Student Body President, Connor Eads to be our next Honor Court Chairman, Garner Bayless to be our next Secretary-Treasurer, and Vince Babashak to be the next CAC Chairman.

The Presidential Debate had an extremely large turnout, something that is surely a good sign for the state of Hampden-Sydney's student government and the general population's

face for recruitment and alumni." One of his central campaign goals was to expand the President's role to support "greater student input in administrative decisions," get "more [campus] involvement as far as live music," "keep people around on dead weekends," and generally promote more active and consistent involvement from the whole of the student body.

Once the floor was opened for student questions, Good was faced with a wide range of queries. When asked what student activity prepared

"When asked about his support for going co-ed, Good responded... 'Why fix what isn't broken?'"

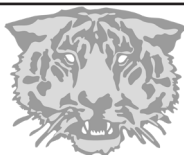
involvement in it. Good, the winner of the election, began his debate performance by illustrating his idea of what the job of the President entails and what qualities are most important for that position. It requires, among other things, "representing the students' interests and [being a] liaison between the administration and the student body." He also emphasized his ability to "be a good, responsible

him most for the position, he gave several examples that illustrated the depth of his resume, including holding positions in the Kappa Sigma fraternity, his involvement in IFC, and his role as an Honor Court Advisor. These positions all emphasized his ability to function as a good "people person." Considering ways to attract more potential minority students, Good suggested more celebrations of various ethnic background in ways like "cookouts" as an attempt to draw the whole campus together for these celebrations. Improving the relationship between the faculty/administration and the students was something he said he hopes to excel at, particularly when compared with previous Presidents. When asked about his potential support for going co-ed, Good responded with a firm "no," asking "Why fix what isn't broken?" to a good reception from the crowd.

The next debate that occurred was between the candidates for the

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The Hill Mourns Victor Cabas Continued

up to learn if Dr. Cabas was providing entertainment at an event that Clapton was intending to attend. (When Dr. Cabas answered the phone, he said, "Eric who?") I wish I could number Eric Clapton among my fans.

Dr. Cabas was a dedicated, gifted teacher of both Rhetoric and Literature—at Hampden-Sydney College and at the University of Virginia. For years, Dr. Cabas taught a very popular class on the blues at the University. Students eagerly sought out his class. The actress, Sissy Spacek, contacted the university to specifically ensure that her daughter would be able to enroll in Dr. Cabas' class. Generations of Hampden-Sydney College students were grateful to have had the opportunity to learn Rhetoric from Dr. Cabas, and especially to prepare for the proficiency exam under his tutelage. His care and sincerity earned him five consecutive Fuqua Teaching Awards, voted on by recent alumni of the College.

In addition to his teaching and musical performances (some of

which have been featured on radio and television in the Charlottesville area), Dr. Cabas was a long time cattle farmer in Nelson County, Virginia. He cherished the rigors of farm life, and he attended to his livestock with great care and affection.

Dr. Cabas never had children but often thought of the many students he worked with at the College as his sons. In particular, he was especially fond of the men of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity that he served for many years as faculty advisor. Annually, he looked forward to the occasions during Family Weekend in the Fall Term and Greek Week in the Spring Term when he and I performed for the SAE brothers and their guests with special relish.

Each time I play, I will miss Vic. I will dedicate many songs to him in the years ahead. But, of course, I can hear him now, even as I write.

(Photo: Professor Townsend)



Food Committee Update: A Senate In Action

*Marc Imbillicieri '20
Guest Contributor*

Colloquially called 'The Moans' by Hampden-Sydney students, Pannill Commons in Settle Hall is not known for quality food. In fact, Hampden-Sydney is ranked by both US News and World Report as well as Princeton Review for having amongst the worst dining amongst colleges in the country. The food is not only poor in terms of taste, but is also malnourishing; many students report feeling mildly nauseous after eating at the Commons. However, most students agree that toward the end of last semester, the food has improved. Recently, I interviewed Student Senator Bjore Samard '21, who also serves on the Food Committee, to discuss recent and future changes to Pannill Commons.

Samard tells me that Connor Francis, who is a Sr. Senator for the class of '20, was previously on the Food Committee, and was dismayed at the inefficiency of the

push for change. In response to this, a series of questions were drafted by the Senate and Food Committee.

'The results were horrible for the Moans' Samard tells me. 'I think the highest grade was a D+'. Many students complained about undercooked meat and food that was not fresh. 'Then we passed the results to Larry Shepard', who in turn shared it with Thompson Hospitality, the provider of food for Hampden-Sydney.

It was then, Samard tells me, that Thompson Hospitality took their call to improve the food seriously. 'We had alumni from decades ago tell us they remember the food being bad', he tells me, and explains that the Food Committee will continue to get serious with Thompson Hospitality to ensure that the food continues to improve. 'The Senate is looking that the food stays that way.'

When asked about changes going forward, Samard talks about better training for the workers. If the training improves and the food remains bad, he explains, then the problem must be with the package.

Samard also brought up improve-

ments to the Tiger Inn. 'We've gotten many complaints about the service', he tells me, particularly the wait time between ordering and receiving meals.

I also talked to Food Committee Chairman Sam Saville '20, who told me that the Committee has arranged a rotation calendar, in which at the end of each week they decide what to keep and what to remove. Messrs. Saville and Samard both talked about plans to have more events at the Tiger Inn. 'There is usually a long quiet stretch between Macon Night and Greek Week', Samard told me, laughing.

Both remain fully committed to a continuous improving of the campus food, and want to ensure that they are always working in the best interests of the students at Hampden-Sydney College in terms of the quality of the meals. 'We are receiving the message loud and clear' Samard firmly informs me, 'that the student body isn't happy. We are working with the CFC and the Board of Trustees to continue this upward trend.'

For more information, please contact Samard at SamardB21@hsc.edu

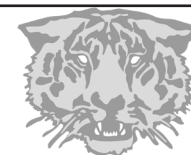
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SPORTS



Tiger Basketball Looks to Rebuild

Garrett Barton '21
Staff Writer

The Hampden-Sydney Tigers basketball team has completed the 2017-2018 season, and it was most certainly a year to forget. The Tigers finished with an overall record of 6-20, the program's worst record since the 1941-1942 season. H-SC placed last in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference standings with an in-conference record of 3-13, and were knocked out of the first round of the ODAC tournament by Lynchburg College on February 20th. This abysmal season was extremely uncharacteristic of the Hampden-Sydney basketball program, as it is normally a perennial competitor in the ODAC. The main issue on the court all season for the Tigers was their lack of production on the offensive end: they had the least offensive rebounds per game (7.5) and most turnovers per game (16.1) of any team in the ODAC. Hampden-Sydney was second-to-last in terms of both points scored and allowed, putting up 69 points per game while allowing nearly 80. The team's inability to establish a rhythm on offense proved to be its kryptonite, as the Tigers often fell behind early in games and failed to put together a run. Perhaps the team's most devastating weakness was its inability to win games on the road. The Tigers were 5-7 at home, but were an astounding 0-10 in away games.

Despite the team's unsuccessful season, two standout players took their game to another level. Junior guard Malik Crute earned 3rd team all-ODAC honors and averaged a team-high 14.7 points per game with

an impressive 45% shooting percentage. Sophomore wing Kevin Quinn experienced a breakout season this year, leading the team in minutes per game (29.6) and free throw percentage (90.5%). Both players led the team's offensive attack and played key roles in the Tigers' victories. Crute and Quinn will return next year as upperclassmen and on-court leaders, as they look to bring forth some wins and improve as playmakers.

While the Tigers played uncharacteristically poor in the 2017-2018 season, this offseason provides an opportunity to rebuild and reload. There is much room for improvement, and tenth-year Head Coach Dee Vick is more than capable of returning to his winning ways. An experienced group of upperclassmen in addition to a deep, talented class of rising sophomores could be the answer to turning the program around. As we try to forget this past season, we should anticipate the potential of the next one.

Swimming Finishes Season Third at ODAC Championship, Three All-ODAC

Stewart Thames '19
Sports Editor

The Hampden-Sydney swim team finished its season earlier this month with a solid third place finish at the ODAC Championship meet to end their successful 2017-2018 campaign. The Tigers finished behind a dominant Washington & Lee team and Randolph-Macon while besting seven other schools at the championship meet in Greensboro. The Tigers' third place finish is even more impressive considering the addition of five men's swimming teams in the ODAC this season.

Over the course of the championship weekend, the Tigers broke nine school records. Zach Stephan '21 led the way for the Tigers in setting three individual records in the 100 yard backstroke, freestyle, and butterfly while also being a member of four relay teams that broke school



All-ODAC swimmers, from left to right: Dickerson, Howard, Stephan
(Photo: hsc.edu)

records. Stephan's freshman teammate AJ Howard '21 also had an impressive meet: setting a school record in the 50 yard freestyle and being a member of four school record-breaking relay teams. Both Stephan and Howard were awarded All-ODAC Third Team honors along with junior Jack Dickerson '19 who was a part of two school record-setting relay teams and finished 6th and 8th in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke finals respectively.

The third place finish at the ODAC Championship was a positive ending to a busy season for the Tigers. Over the course of the 2017-2018 season, the Tigers participated

in 10 meets, winning 6 of them outright. All-ODAC Third Team honoree Jack Dickerson commented, "We had a strong season. Both Zach and AJ had strong seasons, and I'm looking forward to an electrifying season next year." Considering that all but two swimmers should be returning next season, look for the Tigers to break even more school-records over the course of the 2018-2019 season.

Join our staff!

Writers, photographers, cartoonists and critics are all welcome to join the *Tiger* family. Shoot us an email at newspaper@hsc.edu, or drop in on our next weekly meeting held Monday, the 12th at 5pm. No application or experience necessary.

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger



SPORTS

How to Prevent Corruption in NCAA Basketball

Stewart Thames '19
Sports Editor

College Basketball is corrupt. Yeah, that should not be a surprise to any you. The worst kept secret in college sports is that some Division I college basketball players and their families are given financial motivation to either attend a certain school, or stay in a certain school. So those who keep up with college basketball should not have been surprised when news broke last week that the FBI had released the findings of its investigation of corruption in college basketball. The scandal is massive: dozens of current and former players, coaches, and even sportswear companies are involved. Former college players such as Kyle Kuzma, Markelle Fultz, and Dennis Smith Jr. are mentioned along with current college basketball standouts such as Alabama's Collin Sexton, Duke's Wendell Carter, and Michigan State's Miles Bridges. Top programs such as Duke, Michigan State, UNC, and Kentucky are involved and ESPN has reported that Arizona's coach Sean Miller has been recorded on a wiretap discussing payments for a player. There is no telling how long it will be until this scandal is wrapped up, and who knows to what extent it will shake-up college basketball.

That's the skinny. I could go on and on about Adidas' role in providing the money or the NCAA's complicit involvement in this scandal. This scandal is complex and cuts deep into all aspects of NCAA Division I College Basketball. Yet, it was entirely preventable. Rules implemented by the NCAA and even the NBA have led to the events that created this scandal. I have some ideas on how to fix this issue. I am not going to tell you that these ideas are original thoughts of my own; in fact, most of these ideas have been thrown around on sports television and radio broadcasts. I am also

not going to say that these ideas alone will fix this incredibly complex issue, but I firmly believe that these suggestions take a step in the right direction.

Eliminate "One-and-Done" Rule

The NBA's one-and-done rule makes no sense. For those who do not know what it is: the one-and-done rule is an NBA rule that requires high-school basketball players to be a year removed from graduation before they are eligible to enter

responsible for making sure that these players have a way to pursue a life after basketball. Many of the former college basketball players who have been implicated in this scandal are players who left college early. These players had financial incentives to take bribes, but were forced to play in the NCAA. The elimination of the one-and-done rule would result in many of these players going pro immediately after high school, and, bringing with it less corruption as well as

"This scandal is complex and cuts deep into all aspects of NCAA Division I College Basketball. Yet, it was entirely preventable..."

the NBA Draft. The result of the rule is that many top prospects end up spending only a year in college before declaring for the NBA Draft.

It's simple: eliminate the one-and-done rule and allow players to go pro right out of high-school. Players who go pro straight out of high school should be allowed to sign with any NBA team as if they are free agents. If a player signs with an NBA team and is not quite ready for the pro game, then that player could be sent down to his team's G-League affiliate, the NBA's developmental league, and his salary would not be counted against the NBA cap. Sending these straight-out-of-high-school players to the G-League would help these young players hone their skills in a pro atmosphere and promote the G-League as a truly developmental league, allowing who have real NBA talent and have a true financial need, the ability to use their skillset to benefit themselves and their families. Of course, there will be players who forego college opportunities, but never make it far in the NBA. The NBA and the NBA Players Association should be

compensation for players and families.

Lifetime Bans for Coaches

The NCAA has been notoriously weak on punishing college coaches for violations. Successful coaches such as Rick Pitino, John Calipari, Kelvin Sampson and Bruce Pearl have all committed NCAA violations in the past. However, these coaches, with the exception of Pitino, are still active coaches in the NCAA. An implementation of more strict penalties against coaches would give these coaches less incentives to pay players.

I propose that the NCAA sets a "hard limit" on the amount of money paid towards a player or his family. That limit could be \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or whatever. If a coach is caught paying a player or one of his family members less than that "hard limit" then the coach would be suspended for the rest of the season or the following season if the infraction is caught in the offseason. The coach would not be allowed to recruit, organize practices, or attend games during the time of his suspension. If a coach violates this rule twice, then he

would be banned from coaching in the NCAA at all levels for life. In addition, if a coach is caught paying a player or one of his family members over the "hard limit" even one time, then that coach would be banned from coaching in the NCAA at all levels for life as well. These strict punishments would give NCAA coaches very little incentive to violate these rules because a lifetime ban would limit these coaches to NBA, NAIA, or high-school teams. There are very few NBA coaching jobs compared to the amount of NCAA jobs and the NAIA and high-school jobs would pay a fraction of the salaries many of the current NCAA coaches make. The result: there would be a financial incentive for the coaches to avoid violating these rules.

I will admit that these two solutions would not solve all of the corruption issues facing NCAA College Basketball. However, I do believe that both of these rules would go a long way in lessening corruption in the sport. Giving professional caliber players, who have a financial incentive to accept bribes, the option to go pro directly out of high-school and eliminating the financial incentive for coaches to accept bribes by taking away their livelihood would greatly lessen the overall scale of corruption in the sport. Fewer players who need financial assistance and stiffer penalties against coaches means that there will be less opportunities and more risk with paying players. Considering the current range of corruption in college basketball, both the NBA and NCAA should take extreme measures to prevent corruption; because if they do not, then the FBI definitely will.

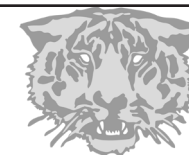
Agree? Disagree? Have a different Opinion? Send your reactions to newspaper@hsc.edu and it may be posted in the next edition.

Want Your Opinion Heard?

Stewart Thames '19
Sports Editor

I am sure that many of you reading this are just as fanatical about sports as I am. Sports in general play take up a large amount of my free time. I always seem to find myself watching a random game on T.V., and my friends and I continually throw our "hot-takes" at one another in our spare time. However, as a sports fan and reader of *The Tiger*, I have always found the Sports Section of this paper to be stale. Often Hampden-Sydney athletic events are covered weeks after they occurred, and there has been very little national sports content in the past. I hope to add some freshness to the Sports Section of *The Tiger* by adding an "Opinion" article to each edition. The article may be written by myself, a staffer, or any reader who has a strong opinion about a sports topic. For future articles, I hope to have readers send in hot-takes and their reactions to the last edition's "Opinion" article which will be placed in this very section. Of course, we will still strive to report on Hampden-Sydney athletics, but I am hopeful that the "Opinion" and this hot-takes section will engage more Sports fans with *The Tiger*. I would like to see Hampden-Sydney athletic events, "Opinions," and reader interactions all sharing space within this Sports Section. So, the rest is up to you. If you or one of your friend agrees, disagrees, or has a quick hot-take that is relevant in the current sports world, do not hesitate to send it in. Reader interaction is important for this section to thrive. Your reactions or hot-takes can be submitted to newspaper@hsc.edu, and the best will be printed here in the next edition.

REVIEWS



President Continued

position of Student Court Chairman. It began with current Chairman Josh Katowitz emphasizing that the position would not include actively changing the Honor Court's existing policies. Connor Eads introduced himself as a man with experience in positions ranging from the Student Court, working for the writing center, and being involved with the President's Men. He stated that he chose to run for Honor Court Chairman because he feels "great admiration" for the Honor Court, and he wants to give back to it. Eads said that his skills as a good communicator will enable him to operate well in the role when coupled with his experience on the court. When asked how he would deal with pressure to act like an employee of the college in social situations, he replied that it was only his performance on the court that would matter; so long as he excelled in that role, he would not be worried about pressure to act in certain ways in social settings. He emphasized his dedication to the court and willingness to prioritize it over other responsibilities.

To Eads, the honor code means that all students stand on "equal ground," which allows them to interact well with their fellow students. He would not consider a lesser punishment than a semester suspension for violations of the honor court, as he believes that it is the gravity of its punishments that allow the court to have such a strong influence on our student body. When asked if he would err on the side of leniency or strictness, he responded that each case much be considered on a case

by case basis—period. Eads's ideal legacy would be one that establishes the honor code as a "way of life."

The debate for Secretary-Treasurer, occurring between just two people, was full of some of the more elaborate and in-depth responses of the night. Bayless began the debate by emphasizing his length of "experience" on the student finance board, giving him greater insight into what clubs truly need. He also stated that he was thoroughly experienced with finances in general, which is always an important consideration when students vote for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. His ideal finance board would be a diverse one, as he would look for people that provide him with a great range of insights into all the various clubs applying for money. Perhaps most notably, he would like to begin asking clubs for their financial histories and previous allocation requests, to avoid allowing clubs to spend recklessly, keep their goals realistic, and introduce consistency into each year's allocations. If clubs lack this history, the student finance board has their own records of it; to this end, Bayless expressed his enthusiasm to work closely with clubs that lack good financial practices and help them establish more responsible fiscal habits. Finally, one of his stated goals for his term is to update some of the old budget request forms that clubs often struggle with.

As there was only one candidate for CAC Chair, there was very little debate for this position. Babashak did emphasize his goal to book acts further in advance and pay close attention to the opinions of the student body.



Candidates for Honor Court Chair

Movie Review: *Annihilation*

Annihilation is a visually stunning, intellectually confusing, subtly horrifying, thoughtful, unique science-fiction movie. The movie's visuals convey beauty while instilling in the viewer a deep sense of unease and slight horror. The shot work and score also compliment the visuals. In all technical aspects this film exceeds any standard form.

The plot is clearly a philosophical

analogy, although an analogy that is not clearly defined upon first viewing. The majority of the movie's plot moves in a linear fashion; however, the trippy nature of the last twenty minutes seem to be out of 2001 Space Odyssey. The strangeness is paired with the knowledge that there is a deeper meaning, but complete confusion about what that meaning is.

I believe the plot is about hu-

manity's self-destructive reactions to the changes of life. I do not know if this explanation can fully interpret the final scenes. I would highly recommend this movie to viewers who are looking for a heady, philosophical film that will leave you visually stunned and at least a little confused.

Keifer Pfister '20
Staff Writer

Escape Room: Development Run

Hank Hollingshead '19
Staff Writer

The *Tiger* was invited to preview Dr. Hight's and Maryska Connolly-Brown's Escape Room during its development process, allowing an exclusive look not just at the latest version of the room, but at the creation and testing process behind it.

Sadly, Dalton Hall was unable to experience the room with us this time, as he and the other members of the Hampden Sydney Ethic's Bowl Team were busy annihilating the competition, so we welcomed Ian McCrory '21 to take part. He, Preston Rowe, Jacob Whitney and I met up early in the afternoon at the same place, the library basement, ready and eager to see what mind-boggling puzzles and conundrums awaited us. After filling out the non-disclosure and rule agreement forms (don't tell anyone the puzzle answers, don't break things, don't mess with the decorations, etc.) and a brief introduction, we charged in!

There were some notable changes since the last iteration of the room. Whereas previously, it had been a murder mystery within a Cold War bunker, here we found ourselves in more immediate peril. The setting is a zombie apocalypse, and we, the team, were meant to be a group of operatives searching for the cure to the pandemic. As usual, we were given one hour and four minutes to complete it (the extra four minutes were to account for

the orientation time and the process of entering the room). However, due to the nature of this Tiger exclusive, we were allowed to continue if we went over the allotted time, in order to assist in the examination and testing of the room, to make improvements before the room went public.

Sadly, we needed the extra time. Due to all manner of hiccups and communication failures, we were delayed a good bit. Fair to say, even for an incredibly organized team, the machinations of Hight and Connolly-Brown are enough to befuddle a group for some time. Our final time was approximately one hour and forty minutes, give or take. However, we did get to see it through to its conclusion.

Once we completed the final puzzle, we spent about twenty minutes discussing the various ups and downs of the experience and provided feedback in order to improve the experience for the next runners. For the most part, very little change was needed, only a few details to streamline the process and adjust the difficulty.

Aside from the puzzles themselves, perhaps the best part of the experience itself was the atmosphere. It's clear that the creators went to great lengths to make sure the decorations, the conundrums and the instructions matched the theme of the Room.

This version of the Escape Room utilized a number of props and decorations that we had seen previously. However, the disadvantage of being familiar with some aspects of the room meant that the ingenious cre-

ators were able to play with our expectations, setting up red herrings and perspectives to problems which we didn't anticipate. And when we weren't getting bamboozled from that, the flashback elements evidenced that the two of them really knew how to turn something from another time and place into a completely different factor of the Room.

Hight announced that they were planning to expand the availability and uses of the Escape Room. He hopes to work with Col. Sneed at the Wilson Center to add the Room to part of the leadership program as a team building exercise. Additionally, he wants to expand the customer reach, opening the room to all residents of Prince Edward County. If the room was to receive more publicity, the college would as well. Not to mention, the proceeds from the Room go straight back to the college to allow for more improvements, both to the room and to the school itself.

To those unfamiliar with the room, I will offer some advice. Firstly, get a team of people who you know and who you can understand. If there is tension or miscommunication in the team, it hurts your chances. Second, try to think in multiple different ways. Mathematically, logically, and linearly are great, but you also need to utilize observation, memory, and just plain common sense. Finally, remember that it's just a game. Don't stress out if you are running out of time. Relax and have fun!